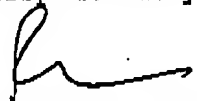


The instant application is subject to a restriction requirement. For the purpose of examination, Applicant elects to prosecute Group I (Claims 1 - 5 drawn to a battery separator comprising a tri-layered film having a polypropylene-polyethylene-polypropylene structure), reserves the right to traverse, and reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant looks forward to the first Office Action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Hammer III
Reg. No. 31,764
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 29494
HAMMER & HANF, P.C.
3125 Springbank Lane
Suite G
Charlotte, NC 28226
Telephone: 704-927-0400
Facsimile: 704-927-0485

H:\2000\149\Response062306.doc